

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have elected Group I, Claims 15-17 and 26-28. This election is made with traverse.

As noted by the Office, the present application is a U.S. PCT application, and thus subject to different restriction Rules as compared with "normal" direct U.S.-filed applications. In this regard, PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 are cited, as is the single general inventive concept, but the reason given for the two Groups of claims lacking the same or corresponding special technical features is quite unusual.

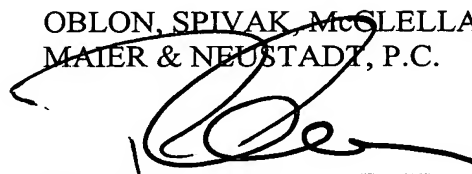
In the middle of page 2 of the Restriction Requirement, it is indicated that Claim 18, directed to a device, is not novel in view of Doiron.

This is not a reason showing why the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept, etc., under the pertinent PCT Rules. Moreover, it is an indication that the claims of Group II have already been searched.

Because the claims of Group II have already been searched, and because Applicants have here elected Group I, there is no burden placed on the office with regard to the search of the entire case as presently amended. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement, and an Action on the merits as to all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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